

BOROUGH OF DROITWICH

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

BOROUGH SURVEYOR
and
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the year

1965

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MEMBERS OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL, 1965-66

His Worship the Mayor

Alderman E.Shirley Jones

Deputy Mayor

Councillor R.Jolliffe

Alderman

Mrs.J.M.Addenbrooke

B.Inett

J.A.Pittaway

Councillors

A.G.I. Cardno

P.C.G.Clarke

R.D.N.Fabricius

S.B.Harris

Mrs.T.D.Hammond

A.W.S.Holloway

D.Platts

H.Roberts

V.H.Rohan

Mrs.A.Sandles

M.H.Wynne

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THIS AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health

L.Spencer Stephens, M.B., Ch.B.,
D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Surveyor & Chief Public
Health Inspector

Graham L.Robinson, C.Eng., M.I.Mun.E.,
M.I.H.E., F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Certificated Meat & Food Inspector

Additional Public Health
Inspector

Richard Hill, M.A.P.H.I.,
Certificated Meat & Food Inspector
Certificates in Sanitary Science
(Meat and Foods)
Liverpool School of Hygiene.

Public Health Department,
Covercroft,
Droitwich.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Droitwich.

August, 1966

Your Worship, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my 11th Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1965. It is set out in the usual sections, and there have been few changes from the previous year.

When reporting on 1964's work, I indicated what a difference it had made to have the services of an additional Public Health Inspector working under the guidance of Mr. Robinson. Mr. Hill has continued to probe into all matters affecting Public Health and much valuable routine inspection of property has been carried out. This includes visits to Offices, Shops and Factories as well as Food premises, a record of which is to be found in the Surveyor's Report. An increase in the amount of sampling has also been possible, and although we are not the Food and Drugs Authority, we have a duty to investigate bacterial contamination of foodstuffs which is a most important part of this work. Condemnation of unsound food is important (a list of which is to be found on page 12) and I am pleased to report that most shopkeepers are very co-operative in this respect. It is regrettable that the local Fishmonger is closing down, as I feel that frozen packeted fish is no substitute for the fresh product which should be available in greater variety, and I hope that town expansion will attract another retailer in this field. Fish provides first class protein and is an excellent substitute for meat, the price of which is increasing steadily.

Two other points are of interest. Firstly the Canal Scheme is completed at last, and it is a great relief to see most of the canal basin in the Vines Park filled in. Secondly with a start being made on the Hanbury Road Estate, forty two houses were completed during the year. This has gone a long way towards reducing the Housing Waiting List and about another forty houses will be available during 1966. With the appointment of a Housing Manager and the creation of a new Department in Covercroft House the Local Authority are geared up to receive the immigrant Overspill Population. This is most encouraging!

My only complaint is that I have been waiting for 10 years to see a new Welfare Centre in the Town and still it does not materialise. Pipe-dreams take a long time to turn into bricks and mortar!

I remain, Mr. Mayor,

Your obedient servant,

I. SPENCER STEPHENS,

Medical Officer of Health.

LSS/MGM

Public Health Department,
Government,
Ipswich.

August, 1952

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councilors
of the Town of Ipswich.

Dear Sirs, Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my 15th annual report for the year
ending 31st December, 1951. It is set out in the usual manner, and
there have been few changes from the previous year.

Then regarding my 15th report, I indicated that a difference at
had made to have the services of an additional Public Health Inspector
working under the guidance of Mr. Robinson. Mr. Hill has continued in
posts into all systems attending Public Health and such valuable routine
inspections of property has been carried out. This includes visits to
dairies, shops and factories as well as food premises, a record of which
is to be found in the Surveyor's Report. In answer to the amount of
sampling has also been possible, and although we are not the food and
Drugs Authority, we have a duty to investigate bacterial contamination of
foodstuffs which is a most important part of this work. Contamination of
meat and food is important (a list of which is to be found on page 12)
and I am pleased to report that most shops, etc. are very co-operative
in this respect. It is regrettable that the local butcher is closing
down, as I feel that better packed fish is an substitute for the fresh
product which should be available in greater variety, and I hope that
some expansion will attract another retailer in this field. Fish provides
first-class protein and is an excellent substitute for meat, the price of
which is increasing steadily.

Two other points are of interest. Firstly the Canal Scheme is
completed at last, and it is a great relief to see most of the canal
filled in the Vane Park filled in. Secondly with a start being made
on the Hendry Road Bridge, forty-two houses were completed during the
year. This has gone a long way towards reducing the Housing Waiting
List and about another forty houses will be available during 1952.
With the appointment of a Housing Manager and the creation of a new
Department in Government House the local authority are geared up to
receive the Housing Council's proposals. This is most encouraging.

My only complaint is that I have been waiting for 10 years to see
a new Welfare Centre in the Town and still it does not materialise.
Type-frames take a long time to turn into facts and results!

I remain, Sir, Yours,

Your obedient servant,

A. STUBBS STUBBS,

Medical Officer of Health.

12/8/52

SECTION "A" - STATISTICS

Area	1735 acres
Registrar General's Estimate of resident population, mid - 1965	8,610
Number of inhabited houses 1st April, 1965 (according to Rate books)	2,523
Rateable value at 1st April, 1965	£333,931
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 1965	£1,314

The following are extracts from the vital statistics for the year:-

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	75	49	124	
Illegitimate	9	4	13	
Illegitimate live birhts per cent of total live births				9.5%
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 population ...				15.9
Birth Rate - England and Wales				18.0
<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	-	-	-	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births				NIL
Still Birth Rate - England and Wales				15.7
<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
	42	75	117	
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population ...				10.3
Death Rate - England and Wales				11.5
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age</u>				
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	-	-	-	
Illegitimate	1	-	1	
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ...				7.3
Infantile Mortality Rate - England and Wales ...				19.0
<u>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age</u>				
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	-	-	-	
Illegitimate	1	-	1	
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ...				7.3
Neonatal Mortality Rate England and Wales ...				13.0
Maternal Deaths				NIL
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births				NIL

SECTION "A" - STATISTICS

1965

Area

8,612

Registrar General's Estimate of
resident population, mid-1965

2,322

Number of inhabited houses, 1st April, 1965
(excluding the farm houses)

133,321

Notable value at 1st April, 1965

41,314

Sum represented by a farm house, 1965

The following are extracts from the vital statistics for the year:-

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	12	13	25
Illegitimate	9	4	13

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births

Standardised birth rate per 1,000 population ...

Birth rate - England and Wales ...

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births

Still Birth rate - England and Wales ...

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	4	2	6
Illegitimate	1	1	2

Standardised death rate per 1,000 population ...

Death rate - England and Wales ...

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	1	-	1

Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...

Infantile Mortality rate - England and Wales ...

Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age

<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	1	-	1

Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...

Neonatal Mortality rate - England and Wales ...

Neonatal Deaths ...

Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births

<u>Primary Causes of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Malignant neoplasm, Lung, bronchus	3	3	6
2. " " Breast	-	4	4
3. " " Uterus	-	1	1
4. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	7	11
5. Diabetes	1	-	1
6. Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	12	19
7. Coronary disease, angina	8	9	17
8. Hypertension with heart disease	2	2	4
9. Other heart diseases	5	12	17
10. Other circulatory diseases	-	4	4
11. Influenza	-	1	1
12. Pneumonia	-	5	5
13. Bronchitis	1	2	3
14. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1	1
15. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
16. Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	-	1	1
17. Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1	1
18. Congenital malformations	1	-	1
19. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	8	12
20. Motor Vehicle accidents	3	2	5
21. All other accidents	1	-	1
22. Suicide	1	-	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	42	75	117
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

End of Section "A"

Section 1		
Disease		
Total		
Male		
Female		
Total		
1	1	2
2	2	4
3	3	6
4	4	8
5	5	10
6	6	12
7	7	14
8	8	16
9	9	18
10	10	20
11	11	22
12	12	24
13	13	26
14	14	28
15	15	30
16	16	32
17	17	34
18	18	36
19	19	38
20	20	40
21	21	42
22	22	44
23	23	46
24	24	48
25	25	50
26	26	52
27	27	54
28	28	56
29	29	58
30	30	60
31	31	62
32	32	64
33	33	66
34	34	68
35	35	70
36	36	72
37	37	74
38	38	76
39	39	78
40	40	80
41	41	82
42	42	84
43	43	86
44	44	88
45	45	90
46	46	92
47	47	94
48	48	96
49	49	98
50	50	100

SECTION "B" - GENERAL PROVISION OF
HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. The following services are provided by the County Council:-

(a) Ambulance Service

The main Ambulance Station is situated at Worcester where a fleet of modern ambulances is manned day and night. The service is now under Radio Control which helps considerably in dealing with emergency calls.

A special ambulance for rheumatic cases is situated in Droitwich. This vehicle is equipped with special devices for the aid of crippled patients.

The hospital car service, manned by volunteers, is used to supplement the Ambulance Service.

Patients suffering from infectious diseases are conveyed in special ambulances which are stationed at the Isolation Hospital.

(b) Home Help Service

This service is administered by the Women's Voluntary Services from their premises at 18, St. Andrews Street, on behalf of the County Council. The service provides domestic help for the aged in cases of illness, and for maternity cases during confinement.

There are now 1 full-time and 10 part-time Home Helps on the Register.

Payment for this service is made according to means.

During the year the following cases were assisted through this service:-

General	61 (62)
Maternity	12 (15)
Tuberculosis	- (2)

(figures in brackets are for the previous year)

The introduction of a Meals on Wheels service twice a week to elderly people in the town has been greatly welcomed and is running successfully.

(c) Home Nursing and Health Visiting Service

Two District Nurse Midwives are stationed in the Borough. They attend booked domiciliary midwifery cases and assist the General Practitioners with general nursing problems and injections in the home. There are also two Health Visitors for the Borough whose main duties are the care of young children from 0-5 years, but they are also responsible for the health and welfare of the whole family. They attend the Infant Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinics and are in close contact with the Voluntary Services. A specialist Health Visitor is employed for visiting case of Tuberculosis, and she operates from the Royal Infirmary, Worcester, where she is under the supervision of the Chest Physician in charge.

(d) Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Young Children

The County Council's Infant Welfare Clinic is held every Tuesday afternoon in the Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich.

During the year 5,756 attendances were made at this Clinic compared with 5,145 the previous year.

There were 523 children (0-5 years) on the Register at 31st December 1965.



The County Council's Ante-Natal clinic is now closed, but Parentcraft and Relaxation classes are held on alternate Thursdays for the benefit of mothers attending their General Practitioners. A physiotherapist, Midwives and Health Visitors are in attendance.

New Clinic premises are urgently required for both pre-school and school work, and it is hoped that work will proceed as soon as the Central Development Area plan for the Town is approved.

(e) Vaccination and Immunisation

Vaccination and immunisation can be carried out free of charge by the patient's own doctor, or at the County Council's Clinic.

The following inoculations were done during 1965.

(i) Diphtheria Immunisation(including Tetanus)

Number of children who received the full course of immunisation during the year	140 (122)
---	-----	-----	-----	-----------

Number of children who received a reinforcing dose during the year	234 (168)
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----------

(ii) Whooping Cough Immunisation

Number of children who received a full course of immunisation during the year	139 (159)
---	-----	-----	-----	-----------

Reinforcing doses are not normally considered to be necessary.

(iii) Vaccination against Smallpox

Number of persons who received a primary vaccination during the year	95 (65)
--	-----	-----	-----	---------

Number of persons who were re-vaccinated during the year	3 (4)
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

(figures in brackets relate to the previous year)

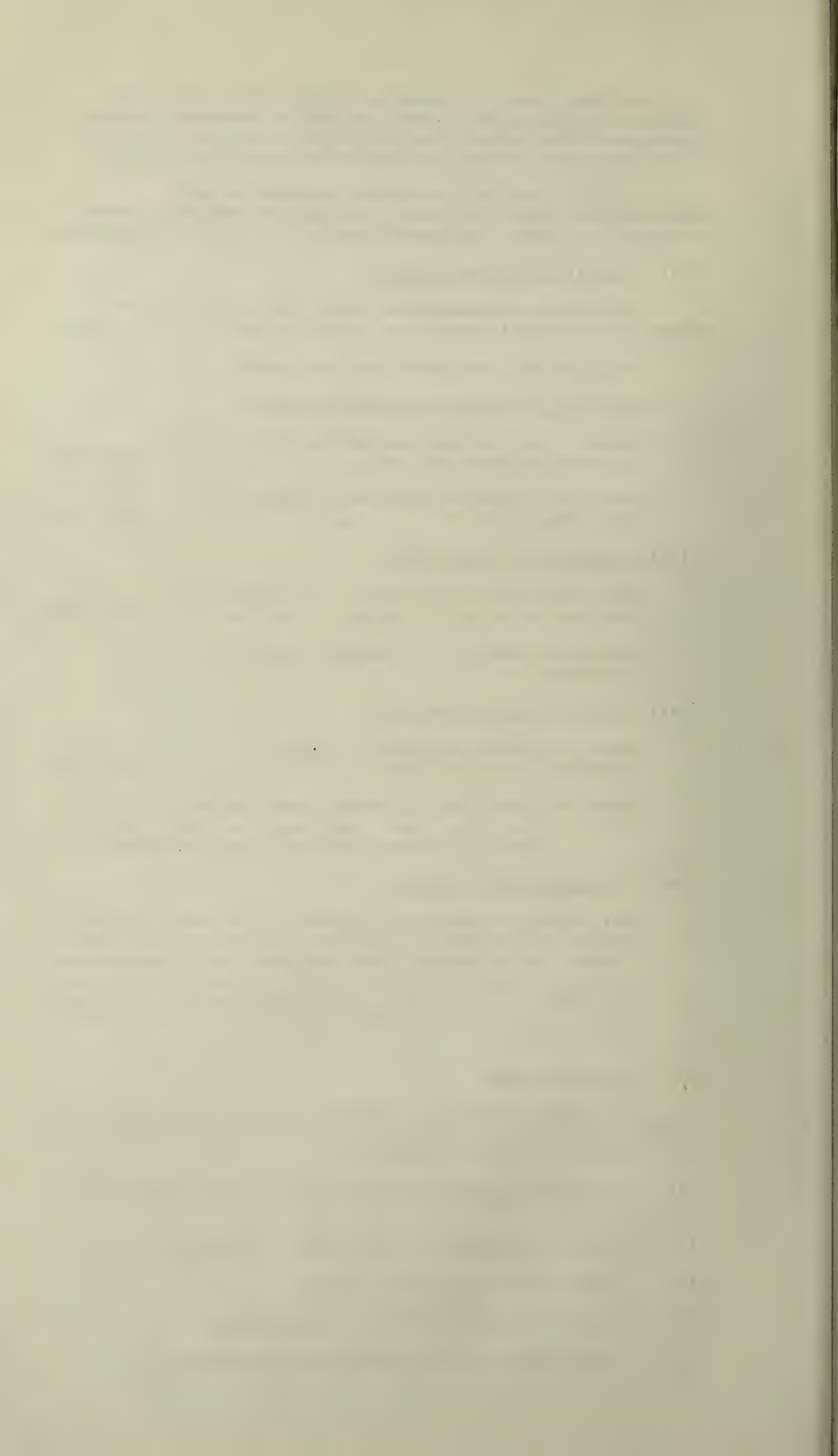
(iv) Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

This scheme is administered directly by the County Council and details are available in the County Medical Officer's Annual Report. Sabin Vaccine is now being used, and is administered orally on a lump of sugar or syrup. This is routine procedure for babies of 3 months old, with a reinforcing dose at 5 years. Adults are also strongly advised to complete a primary course of vaccination.

(f) Welfare Services

The Welfare Services are administered by the Welfare Section of the Health Department under the direction of the County Welfare Officer. The following facilities are available:-

- (1) Residential accommodation for the elderly who are unable to look after themselves in their own homes.
- (2) Temporary accommodation for persons in urgent need.
- (3) Special services for blind persons.
- (4) Special services for deaf and dumb persons.
- (5) Special assistance for other handicapped persons.



(g) Mental Health Service

The Mental Health Department has been expanded to deal with the provision of the Mental Health Act, 1959. The Act abolishes the term Mental Deficiency and introduces the term Mental Disorder which includes severe subnormality, subnormality, mental illness and psychopathic disorder. Mental Welfare Officers have been appointed who act in conjunction with approved Medical Officers and the Hospital Services. Statutory duties of the County Council include:-

- (1) The provision of residential accommodation.
- (2) The provision of Centres or other facilities for training or occupation
- (3) The exercise of functions relating to persons placed under guardianship.
- (4) The provision of any ancillary or supplementary services for persons suffering from mental disorder.

(h) School Health Service

The County Council provides a comprehensive School Health Service. School Medical Officers visit all Primary and Secondary schools in the Borough at regular intervals. Every school child receives three medical examinations during his or her school life, but children in whom abnormalities are detected are seen more frequently. Visual activity and colour tests are given at 7-8 years old. An innovation is the routine testing of hearing with an Audiometer, in order to select children who are partially deaf for special investigation.

2. Hospitals

The following services are provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board:-

- (i) The district is served by general hospitals in Worcester and Bromsgrove.
- (ii) Cases of Infectious disease are admitted to Newtown Isolation Hospital, Worcester. This hospital also accommodates cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
- (iii) Maternity cases which cannot be confined at home are admitted to Maternity Homes at Stourport, Bromsgrove or Ronkswood.
- (iv) The Town is well recognised as one of the leading centres for the treatment of Rheumatic disease, and there is a flourishing Out-Patient Department situated at the Brine Baths. There are also two special hospitals reserved exclusively for treating the more severe cases of the disease, and both operate on a National basis, accepting cases from all over the country. Highfield Hospital has 60 beds and St. John's Hospital 64 beds. The average length of stay for a course of Hydrotherapy is three weeks but other modern methods of treatment are now being used and may necessitate the patient staying in much longer. A gadgets kitchen has also been set up at Highfield Hospital with a view to teaching the female patients in particular to overcome their physical disabilities in the home. Many other gadgets have been invented which enable patients to perform simple actions, which due to limitation of joint movement, would otherwise have to be done for them.
- (v) Psychiatric Hospitals for mental disorders are available at Powick, Worcester and Barnsley Hall, Bromsgrove.
- (vi) The Public Health Laboratory at Worcester Royal Infirmary is available to both General Practitioners and Local Authority Medical Officers for the examination of clinical and bacteriological specimens. Chemical Analyses of Water, Sewage Food, Drugs etc., are however carried out by the County Analyst.

SECTION "C" - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

(a) Quality and Quantity

The East Worcestershire (Droitwich Borough) Water Order 1960 Transferred the Council's water undertaking to the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company. Certain improvements have been made since that date including the construction of a 150,000 gal. Water Tower at Yew Tree Hill adjacent to the reservoir. Pressures throughout the Town have improved. There has been no shortage of water and as can be seen from the results below, the quality has been quite satisfactory.

(b) Chemical and bacteriological examinations

The water is drawn from five boreholes near the Lickey Hills. Samples are taken from source by the Company at approximately fortnightly intervals, and spot checks taken in the town periodically. At all times during the year, the water was found to be satisfactory. Bacteriological results are shown on all five boreholes and a chemical analysis on one of them:-

Date	No. of Colonies Developing on Agar		Probable No. of Coliform Bacilli	Probable No. of Faecal Coli.	Remarks.
	in 2 days at 37°C	in 3 days at 22°C			
20.12.65					
	per 1 ml	per 1 ml	100ml	100ml	
Washin- Stocks (Harward)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Satisfactory
Wildmoor No.1 pump	2	5	Nil	Nil	"
Burcot No. 1 pump	Nil	5	Nil	Nil	"
Brockhill No.1.pump	1	2	Nil	Nil	"
Sugarbrook No.2 pump	Nil	10	Nil	Nil	"

Chemical Analysis Washing Stocks (Harward) 6th December 1965

Colour Colourless

Odour None

Deposit None pH 7.1

Parts per million

Suspended matter (Dried at 100°C)

Total dissolved Solids (Dried at 180°C)

Chlorine Present as Chloride

-

270

20



Cont/d.

		<u>Parts per million</u>
Hardness	Non-Carbonate	61
"	Carbonate	119
"	Total	180
Ammoniacal Nitrogen		Trace
Albuminoid Nitrogen		0.01
Nitrate Nitrogen		5.8
Nitrite Nitrogen		Nil
Permanganate Value (4 hours at 27 °C)		0.10
Toxic Metals		None detected
Residual Chlorine		0.01
Synthetic Detergents (as Manoxol)		-
Phosphates (asPO ₄)		-
Free Carbon Dioxide		6.0

Analyst's Report

The sample is fit for drinking.

(c) Toxic Metals

The water has no plumbo-solvent action but is fairly hard.

(d) Contamination

No action was necessary during the year.

(e) Number of dwelling houses supplied

Only a few houses close to the Borough Boundary have to rely on well water as shown below:-

Number of houses supplied with Mains water	2,509
Number of houses using standpipes	7
Number of houses using well water	7

2. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The need for a new Sewage disposal works for the expanded town (of 30,000 population) has now been well established. A Public Inquiry in February 1963 resulted in authority being given for the purchase of suitable land at Ladywood, which has now been acquired. A further Inquiry was held in January 1965 into the Engineering details of the proposed works, and approval in principle was received from the Ministry later in the year. There is likely to be a delay of some 4 - 5 years before this scheme is completed.

Surveys have been carried out by the Consulting Engineers, including the sinking of trial boreholes to establish the nature of the ground for the laying of the main outfall sewers, and in certain instances they have been re-routed to provide a more satisfactory relationship to the new areas of residential development.

Considerable thought has been given to the provision of temporary measures to cater for the continued development of the town in the interim period. The Severn River Authority drew attention to the poor standard of effluent issuing from the existing works, and intimated that they would not be satisfied to see further housing development taking place without immediate provision being made. A visit to the Ministry by the Surveyor and Consulting Engineer resulted in the suggestion that the most economic method of dealing with a comparatively large volume of sewage over a short period would be by the provision of a Pasveer ditch. This method has been used extensively in Holland, and fortunately a section of the disused canal adjacent to the existing Sewage Works can be used for this purpose. The proposal is to construct a lagoon some 35 ft wide and 450 ft long together with a final settlement tank about 40 ft in diameter. The raw sewage is circulated, lifted and aerated by means of rotating paddles

Sewerage & Sewage Disposal cont/d.

and finally allowed to settle before the final effluent is allowed to discharge into the River

Sludge drying is necessary but quite a large area of land is available for this purpose at the works. Another advantage is that the new development at Chawson which is the 1st stage of the Overspill scheme can be dealt with via existing Sewers flowing to the newly constructed pumping station at Wheelers Bridge with rising main to the works. Some 250,000 gallons of crude sewage per day will be dealt with by this method. The scheme has now been approved by the Ministry of Housing & Local Government, a start being made on the work early in 1966.

3. Refuse Disposal

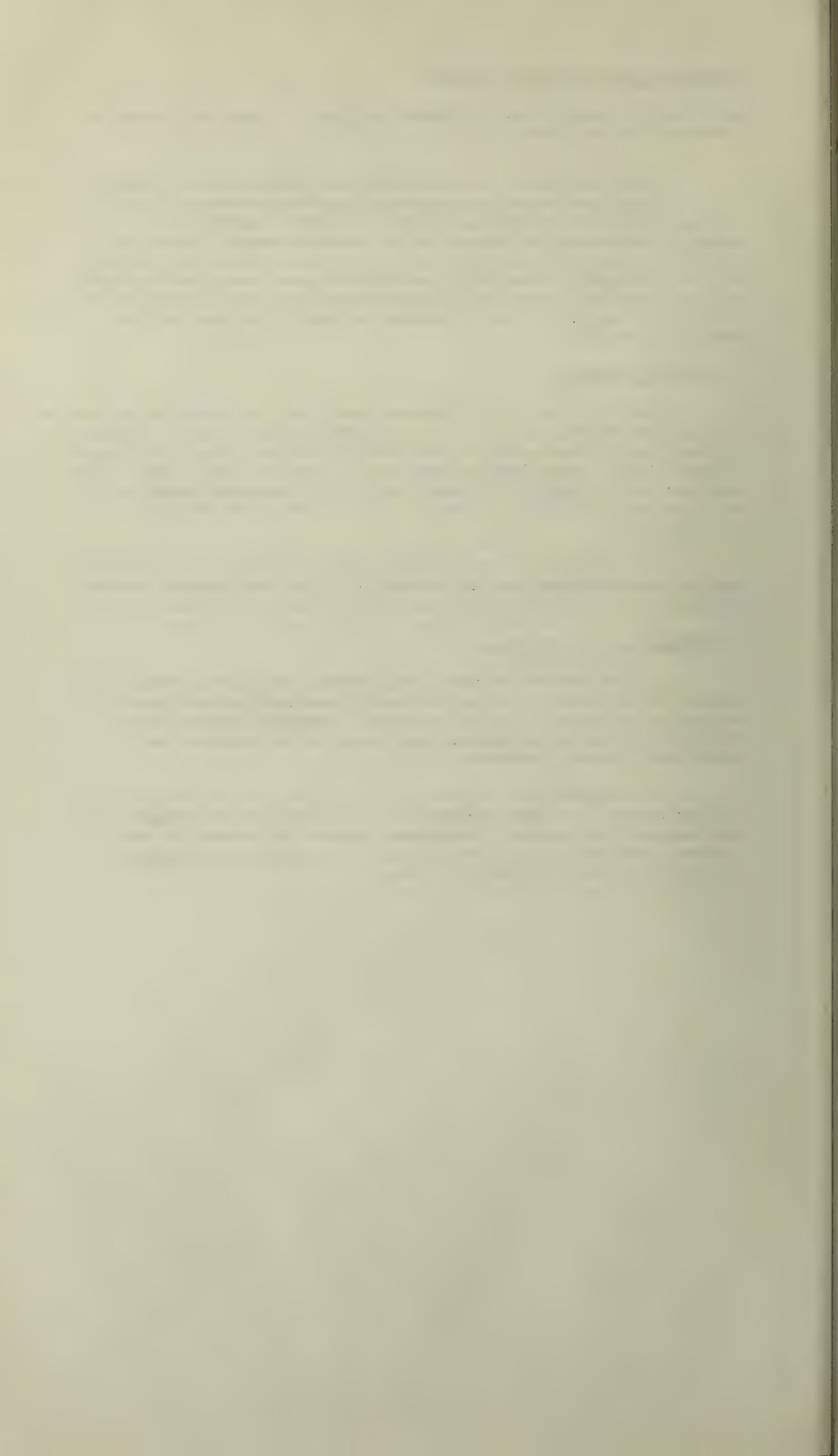
There is very little land now available for controlled tipping at the existing Borough Refuse Tip adjacent to the King George V Playing Fields. Negotiations with Droitwich Rural District Council for the use of their tip at Briar Coppice, Westwood have now been successful. The combined use of this tip is likely to be for a temporary period only, as other proposals are being formulated to provide for overspill development.

The condition of the Borough Tip has been far more satisfactory than in previous years and the presence of flies less evident. Refusal to allow the indiscriminate tipping of trade waste has helped matters.

4. Public Health Inspections.

A large number of varied inspections were carried out by the Public Health Inspector during the year. These involved problems related to Drainage, Clean Air, Caravans, Factories, Rodent Control etc. and details are included in the Report of the Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector.

The registration of premises under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963 involved a considerable amount of work, but has been well worthwhile. Shopkeepers are now fully aware of the improved standards required of them and the majority have already complied with the standards laid down.



5. Rodent Control

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

Report for 12 months ended 31st December, 1965.

TYPE OF PROPERTY

	<u>Local Authority</u>	<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	<u>All other including Business & Industrial</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
1. Total No. of Properties in Borough	9	2623	509	3141	9
2. No. of properties inspected as a result of:-					
(a) Notification	3	38	9	50	1
(b) Survey under the Act	9	49	11	69	1
(c) Otherwise	-	+6	++4	+10	-
3. No. of properties inspected found to be infected by:					
(a) <u>Rats</u>					
Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	3	33	6	42	1
(b) <u>Mice</u>					
Major	--	-	-	-	-
Minor	-	5	3	8	-
4. No. of infested properties treated or retreated	3	49	11	63	1
5. No. of notices served under section 4 of Act					
(a) Treatment	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Structural work (i.e. Proofing	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

SECTION "D" - HOUSING

The following tables show the work carried out in the town on Housing and Slum Clearance during 1965.

A. Number of new houses erected:-	<u>1965</u>
(1) By the Local Authority	42
(2) By other Local Authorities	Nil
(3) By other bodies or persons	119
B. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-	
(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Act)	175
(2) Number of re-inspections	134
(3) Under the Housing Acts	
Number of inspections.	41
Number of re-inspections.	143
(4) Visits. Preliminary Housing Surveys	75
C. <u>Action under Statutory Powers during the year</u>	
(1) <u>Under the Public Health Acts</u>	
(a) Number of notices served.	12
(b) Number of cases in which defects were remedied after the service of such notices	
(i) By owners	12
(ii) By Local Authority	Nil
(2) <u>Under the Housing Act 1957</u>	
(a) Notices served for repairs (Section 9)	Nil
(b) Number of notices served (Section 16)	15
(c) Number of undertakings accepted	Nil
(d) Number of demolition or closing orders made (Section 17)	23
(e) Number of houses demolished during the year	2
D. <u>Overcrowding (Part IV Housing Act 1957)</u>	
(1)(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	6
(b) Number of families dwelling therein	8
(c) Number of persons dwelling therein	53
(2)(a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
(b) Number of persons concerned in such cases	3
(c) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	Nil
(3) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil



SECTION "E" - Inspection & Supervision of Food
routine

More regular/inspection of Food Premises was carried out than in previous years. Details of the types of premises visited are shown under the heading of "Food Hygiene" in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector. Greater attention was paid to butchers' shops, bakehouses, restaurants, cafes and ice-cream premises. No meat inspection was necessary as there are no licensed Slaughterhouses in the town, the Butchers dealing with the Abattoirs at Worcester and Bromsgrove.

There is one manufacturer of Ice-cream in the town and thirty five retailers. The sale of the Soft-Mix product has increased recently, and there are three different manufacturers operating vehicles in the area. The Grading of this product is generally not so satisfactory as the hard ice-cream. The Gradings of Samples taken during the year is shown below. None fell into grade 4.

	<u>No. of Samples taken.</u>	<u>Grade.1.</u>	<u>Grade 2.</u>	<u>Grade 3.</u>	<u>Grade 4</u>
<u>HARD ICE-CREAM</u>	22	21	1	-	-
<u>SOFT ICE-CREAM</u>	3	1	1	1	-
<u>MANUFACTURERS'</u> <u>SAMPLES</u>	11	8	3	-	-

(made at various stages along production line).

Milk and Dairies are no longer the responsibility of the District Council, Dealers' licences being issued by the Worcestershire County Council who are the Food and Drugs Authority. The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations are under the control of the County Public Health Inspector. Monthly sampling is carried out and he is good enough to supply us with the results as follows:-

	<u>No. of Samples taken</u>	<u>Results</u>
Pasteurised Milk	11	All satisfactory
Sterilized Milk	-	-
Raw Tuberculin Tested Milk	10	All satisfactory.

Phosphatase and Methylene Blue Tests are used, or Guinea Pig inoculation if considered necessary.

Chemical sampling for fatty and non-fatty solids is carried out by the County Analyst.

Examination of Foodstuffs

The following foodstuffs were found unfit for human consumption and surrendered voluntarily by the owners:-

- 78lbs of Codfish
- 34lbs of Canned Tomato Juice
- 24lbs of Canned Fruit salad
- 44lbs of Canned Peaches
- 17lbs of Canned Tomatoes
- 12lbs of Canned Oranges
- 8lbs of Canned Pineapple Juice
- 6lbs of Canned Peas
- 4lbs of Canned Orange Juice
- 2lbs of Canned Grapefruit
- 2lbs of Canned Pears

End of Section "E"

SECTION "F"

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES - 1965

Notifiable Diseases

Particulars of cases of infectious disease which occurred during the year are shown in the following table.

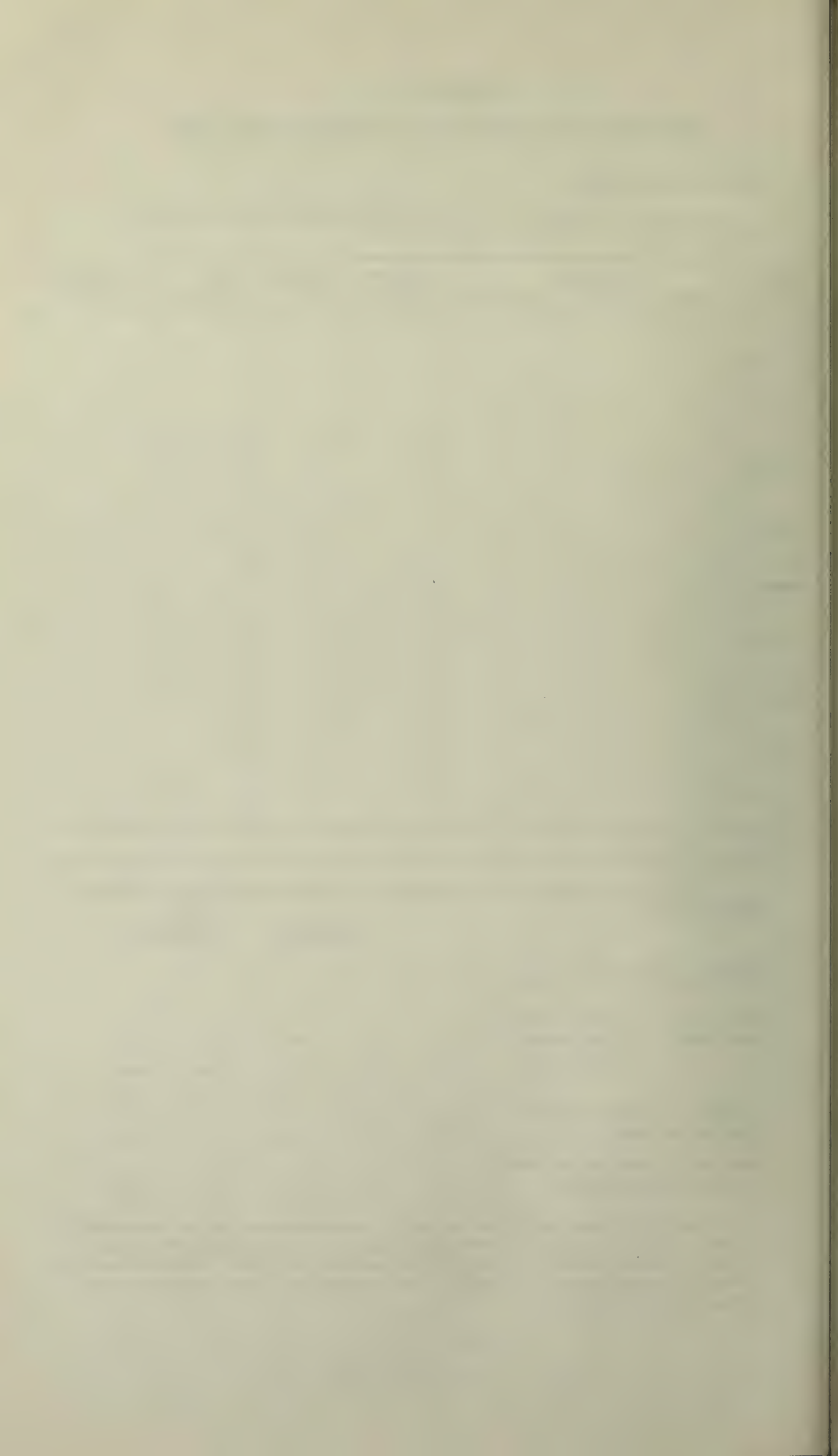
<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Measles</u>	<u>Whooping Cough</u>	<u>Dysentery</u>	<u>Polio-myelitis</u>	<u>Scarlet Fever</u>	<u>Food Poisoning</u>	<u>Fuerperal Pyrexia</u>
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 2 years	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 - 4 years	11	-	-	-	1	-	-
5 years +	19	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 years +	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 years +	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 years +	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
35 years +	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 and over	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Totals	39	-	2	-	1	-	2

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register during 1965 are shown below:-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on register at 1st January, 1965.	7	6	-	-
Additions to register during the year	1	-	-	1
- new cases	-	-	-	-
- Transfers	8	6	-	1
Deductions from register during the year	1	-	-	-
Number of cases on register at 31st December, 1965.	7	6	-	1

The After Care Committee for South Worcestershire met on one occasion during 1965. The word "Tuberculosis" has been omitted from the title of this Committee and its constitution amended in order to cover the After Care of illness generally, but too few applications for assistance are still being received.

End of Section "F"



SECTION "G"

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT. 1961.

Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health were made as follows during 1965:-

<u>Premises</u>	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prose</u>
1. Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	3	3	NIL	NIL
11. Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	51	48	5	NIL
111. Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding outworkers Premises)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
TOTAL	54	51	5	NIL

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

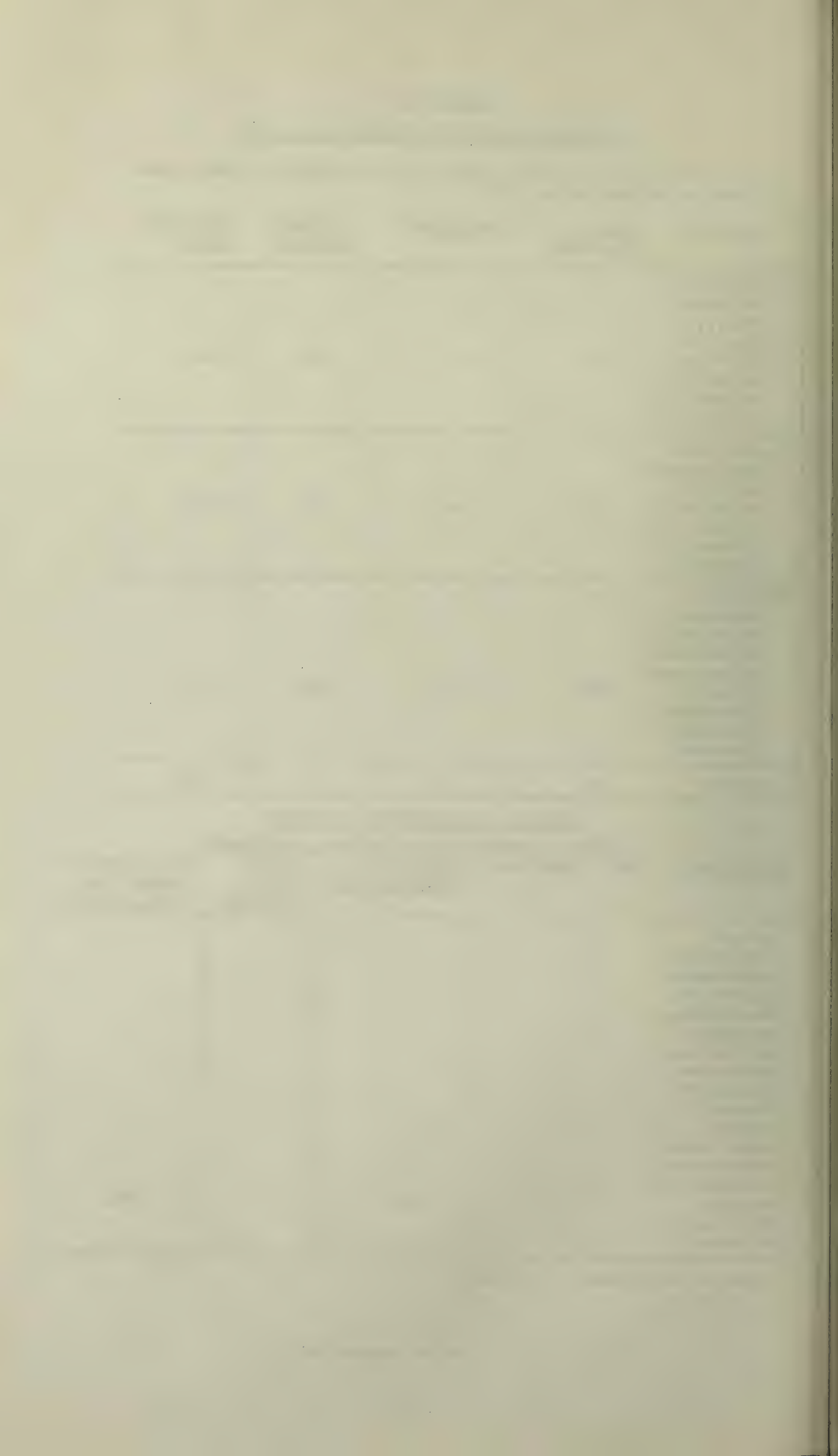
Number of cases in which defects were found.

<u>Particulars.</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Referred to H.M. Inspector.</u>	<u>By H.M. Factory Inspector.</u>	<u>No of Cases in which Prose were instituted</u>
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Want of cleanliness.					
Unreasonable Temperature.					
Overcrowding.					
Inadequate Ventilation.					
Ineffective drainage of Floors.					
Sanitary Conveniences.					
a. Insufficient.					
b. Unsuitable or defective.	3	3	NIL	1	NIL
c. Not separate for sexes.					

Number of Outworkers. - NIL.

End of Section "G".



August, 1966.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Droitwich Town Council.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my 21st Annual Report to the Borough Council upon the work of the Department during the year 1965. Firstly I would mention the retirement, due to ill health of Mr.E.Todd who has been an officer of the Council since 1938 serving continuously except for a period of war service. He has in a quiet way given valuable years of good conscientious service to the town. It is to be regretted that he has had to retire because of his health.

His successor, Mr.K.Hodgson of West Hartlepool, took up his duties early in 1966.

The effects of Town Expansion are just beginning to be felt by the department, greater demands are being made, labour is more difficult to obtain, and it is very apparent that a close look will have to be made to ensure that the best methods are introduced and machinery provided to assist in overcoming these difficulties. Such problems as refuse collection, refuse tipping facilities, grass cutting, the provision of an adequate depot for the Council's plant and equipment, the need for making workmen more mobile, (under the present system they walk or cycle about the town, which is very wasteful time) will have to be reviewed. It is hoped that some proportion of men moving to the town under the expansion scheme will take up employment with the Borough Council.

Mr.Hill, the additional Public Health Inspector is carrying out very valuable work, and is able to give consistent time to such important duties as housing and the inspection of foodstuffs.

The Canal Scheme was completed and it was possible to begin the filling in of the Canal basin.

I would take this opportunity of thanking the Town Clerk and my other colleagues, together with members of my staff for their very valuable assistance during the year, and in particular I would thank the Council for your continued support.

Visits of Inspection

Inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors are listed below, and from which the Council will note the routine work relating to housing and food hygiene which has been accomplished in the main by Mr.Hill.

Accumulations found	2
Visits . Pet Animals Act	6
Animals kept. Piggeries	3
<u>Drainage</u>	
Drains found choked	7
Drains tested	9
Drains found defective	5
Visits to Works in Progress	19
<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	
Visits re Improvement Grants	65
re Repairs and Public Health	175
Repairs : Re-Inspections	169
Housing Act. Inspections	41
" " Re Inspections	143



Rodent Control

Primary visits	24
Re-visits	24
Infectious disease enquiries	3
Factory Act visits	48
Visits to houses in Multiple Occupation	3

Food Hygiene

Visits to:-	
Butchers' Shops	46
Bakehouses	17
Confectioners' Shops	10
Grocers	54
Greengrocers	12
Fried Fish Shops	8
Ice Cream Shops and Manufacturers	47
Restaurants, Cafes, Hotel & School kitchens	50
Factory Canteens	11
Licensed Premises	57
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act. Visits	114
Clean Air Act. Visits	6
Water Supplies. Visits	4
Council Tip. Visits	22
Caravans. Visits	13
Visits to Lido	9
Miscellaneous Visits	170

Housing

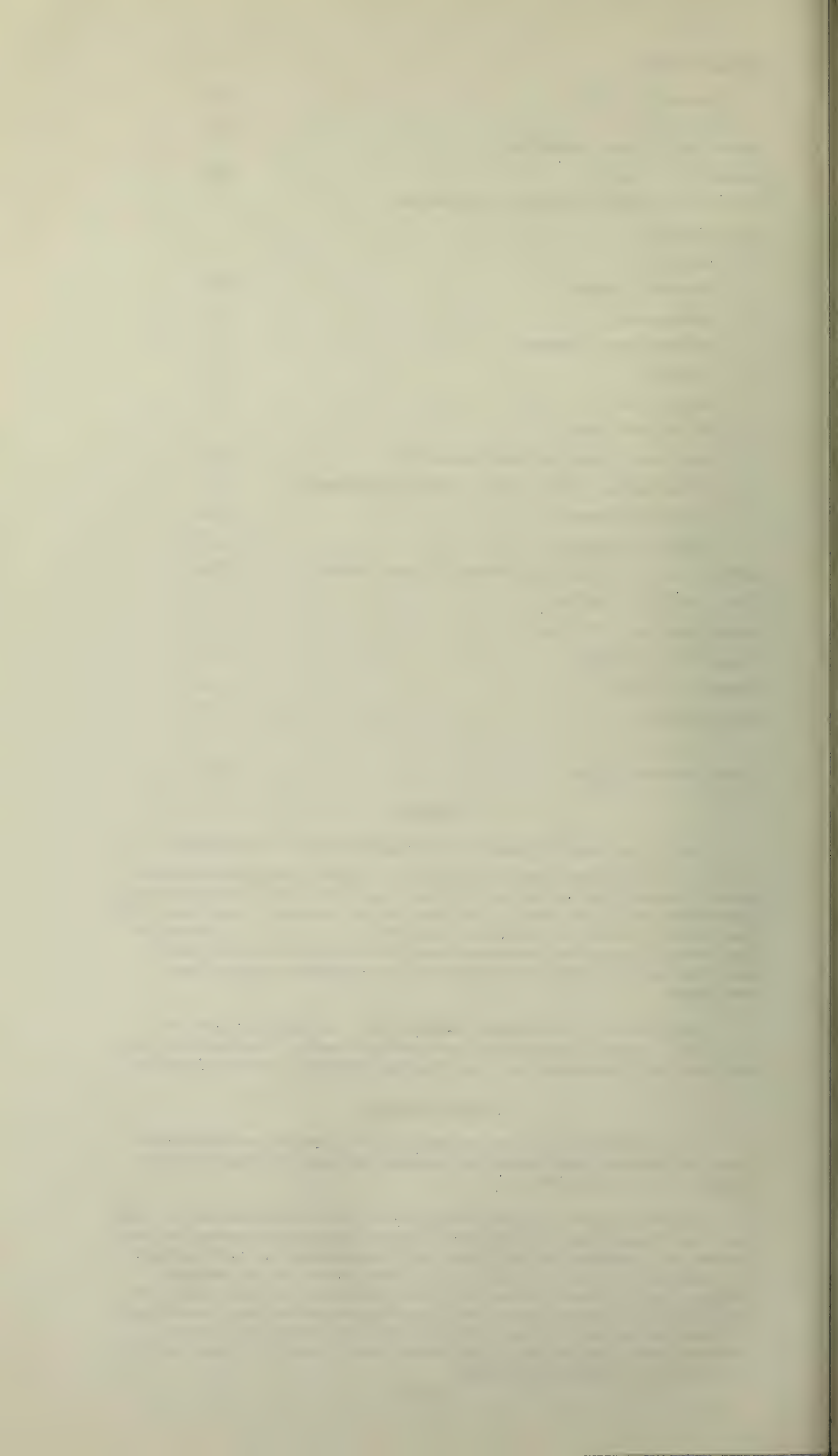
During the year 23 houses were represented to the Borough Council as being unfit and 15 demolition and 8 closing orders were made. Towards the latter part of the year detailed examination and inspection was in progress of a long row of cottages being Nos.51-91 The Holloway, some of which are obsolete and in need of clearance. The Council are giving consideration to this site for acquisition and clearance and redevelopment with some suitable form of new dwellings.

Proposals are also being prepared for the redevelopment of Hill End. Before this can be done satisfactorily, the whole of Hill End requires replanning and the Planning Officer has this in mind.

Council Houses

Work continued upon the erection of the houses and bungalows upon the Hanbury Road Estate and during the year 28 houses and 14 bungalows were occupied.

This will serve a considerable need and towards the end of the year the Council instructed that a survey should be carried out and schemes be prepared for infilling with individual or small groups of bungalows and flats upon various lands owned by the Borough Council. As a result, sites are being developed at the corner of The Ridgeway and Mayflower Road, Winslow Avenue and Mayflower Road, off Rose Avenue and at the bottom of Charles Henry Road at the junction with The Holloway; a further small group of bungalows is to be built at Steynors Avenue.



Private Building

As mentioned in the last Annual Report, the further granting of planning permissions for private building had to be curtailed owing to the overloading of the Sewage Works and the representations made by the Severn River Authority that the Borough Council should not increase the discharge into the Sewage Works when the present dwellings under existing planning permissions had been built, until improved disposal facilities had been provided.

During the year pressures from developers in the South Eastern portion of the Borough began to increase. Messrs. Alex. Francis Ltd., who are the owners of land South of Tagwell Road, submitted draft plans for the development of an estate of almost a thousand houses in this area of the town. Approval could not be given, however, because of the drainage reasons just mentioned. Further proposals were received from Messrs. Ashworth & Steward in respect of land East of The Holloway; here too, approval could not be given and the notice of an appeal was given in this respect. Messrs. Severnminster Developments Ltd., wished to develop a small piece of land North of Windsor Road lately a pig farm. Agreement was reached upon the layout, but again because of drainage difficulties, approval was not forthcoming.

Messrs. Lee Bros. appealed against the decision of the Borough Council not to give permission for the completion of their site in The Holloway. Refusal for this permission was upon the form of layout and density.

Improvement Grants

Only one Improvement Grant was given during the year and the work of improvement of No. 132, Worcester Road was carried out - Amount £132.

Several applications were received for improvement grants in respect of dwellings within the central redevelopment area of the town and because of the uncertainty of planning until the Master Plan for this area of the town was produced improvement grants could not be given.

Council House Improvement and Modernisation

With the successful completion of the first of these programmes, the Borough Council turned their attention to the improvement of Manning Road houses. The work upon these was commenced and by the end of the year 34 had been completed out of the total of 39 houses.

A scheme was prepared for the improvement of houses in Vines Lane, but again because of the relationship of these houses to the Central Development Area, permission was not forthcoming. At the end of the year the Borough Council had instructed that an improvement scheme for the Charles Henry Road/Elizabeth Avenue group of houses should be put in hand.

Refuse Collection

This important service has continued without interruption during the year though difficulties of staffing are regularly increasing. This unpleasant job does not attract workers when there are many congenial alternatives. Only with difficulty has it been possible to maintain a regular weekly collection, but I am glad to be able to record that to date this has been done.

The first of the year was a very successful one for the school. The pupils showed a marked improvement in their work, and the teachers were well satisfied with the results. The year was a very busy one, and the pupils were well prepared for the coming year.

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Salvage Collection

Salvage was collected as follows during the year:-

	Tons	Cwts.	Qts.	£.	s.	d.
Mixed waste paper	27	8	1	229.	11.	1.
Scrap metal	4	17	0	41.	4.	8.

This collection has carried on in a minor way with a special collection of salvage for waste paper and similar materials from shop premises in the town on one half day per week.

Refuse Disposal

As recorded in the last Annual Report the present refuse tip off Ombersley Road is completed and is now being over-tipped and arrangements were being negotiated with the Rural District Council for tipping to take place in a Brick pit some 2 miles out of the town. The Rural District Council on their part were similarly negotiating with the owners to obtain a lease for both Authorities to tip in the pit. Until this had been done arrangements were made for your Borough Council to tip at the Rural District Council tip Briar Hill, but the Planning Officer urged that as little tipping as possible should take place at Briar Hill and that you should continue to use the existing tip off Ombersley Road. This is being done but it means that much of the refuse now deposited will have to be removed in due course when the land is re-claimed. Consideration has been given to the desirability of providing some form of pulverization in order to pulverize the refuse as received and reduce the potential nuisance. This was under consideration at the end of the year.

Sewage Disposal Works

Your present sewage works continued in their very overloaded condition and in view of the tremendous surcharge of sewage being received the works are being maintained in as good a condition as can be expected. During the year a Tender was let for the construction of an oxidation tank commonly called a Pasveer Ditch in the Canal Basin near the sewage works. Work had not commenced upon this installation at the close of the year.

Sewers

A Contract was let for the jetting or cleaning by a high pressure jet of water; of a number of the old sewers in the lower part of the town, lengths of sewers were cleaned in this way in Vines Lane, Friar Street, High Street and Hampton Road.

This work was done very effectively and a large quantity of debris and silt was removed. The benefit of this cleansing was very apparent in the latter part of the year when a high rainfall occurred and I am glad to report that no flooding took place.

Highways

The scavenging of the highways is providing a problem due to lack of labour and I submitted a report for the introduction of mechanical sweeping in the streets and this was under consideration at the end of the year, a number of trials had been made of various machines for street sweeping. Work upon the continued improvement of The Holloway proceeded and a Contract was let for the provision of a brick retaining wall adjacent to Petersfield Drive. This was completed, and during 1966 it is hoped to extend the Public Footpath past this frontage. A scheme for the improvement of Old Coach Road was prepared and submitted to the Ministry but planning permission was not forthcoming until land had been acquired at the junction between the A.38 and Old Coach Road to give an adequate sight line.

Highways Cont/d

Following the representations from various road users consideration was given to the improvement of the junction of the A.38 and Alexander Avenue. Here also the approved scheme requires the acquisition of land on both frontages to give adequate vision; this is in process of negotiation. A number of new roads were constructed and surfaced ready for adoption. These included Blackfriars Avenue, Moreland Road, Addenbrooke Road, Minter Avenue on the St. Andrew's Estate, Bainbrigge Avenue upon the Lee Bros: Estate in the Holloway, Petersfield Drive and Ravenscroft Drive on the Bryant Homes, Holloway Estate, and Windsor Road and Ashendon Close on the Severnminster Estate.

Applications for ' NO WAITING ' Orders had been made to the County Council in respect of Ombersley Street and Friar Street but approvals had not been received.

Canal Scheme

It is good to be able to record that the Canal Scheme was completed and the balancing reservoir constructed in the Canal Basin near the gas works, a new brine main was laid down Winnetts Lane from the St. Andrew's Brine Baths and the necessary connection was made to it also a new storm water sewer was laid down Winnetts Lane to the river. This is a scheme which has been necessary for a long period but complicated not only by legal problems but also by the difficulty of connecting and collecting various drains running down Winnetts Lane and discharging brine. At the end of the year the scheme seemed to be working satisfactorily and steps were in hand to fill in with surplus earth the old canal basin in Vines Park.

Lido

The Lido functioned smoothly during the year all the plant operated well. The Council provided some better foot baths, the old ones being reconstructed and warm as well as cold water sprays were provided for bathers going through the foot baths and also showers for use as desired. The entrance way to the locker rooms at the Lido was tiled and greatly improved in appearance. Your Council set up a Sub-Committee to consider the scheme for the provision of an indoor pool and additional facilities at the Lido and they were actively engaged upon the examination of a Draft Plan which would give an indoor pool, new cafe, and sports hall with changing rooms, in close proximity to the present Lido.

Parks and Open Spaces

The Droitwich Park was maintained in good condition. This park forms a very pleasant amenity in the Town Centre, which is much enjoyed by residents, particularly when band concerts are arranged, as has been the case during the past two seasons.

The Vines Park is a very attractive strip of parkland, but is not as well appreciated or as well known to the residents, although some parts of it provide some very delightful vistas. With the filling in of the Canal basin, this park will be substantially extended, and it is hoped that 1967 will see this well in hand.

The King George Playing Field, together with Poplars Meadow has been maintained in good condition. It is regretted that these playing fields are so low and situated as they are at the same level as the River, waterlogging of the fields during wet weather is inevitable. At some date in the future, probably when playing field facilities are more extensive, it may well be thought desirable to raise the levels of these grounds and thus overcome the waterlogging, which puts them out of use often for quite long periods.

Parks and Open Spaces Cont/d...

With the development of further housing estates and the current fashion of open forecourts, more and more grass is falling to the Council's responsibility for cutting, and this becomes ever more a greater problem in view of the shortage of labour. It would appear that the only way to maintain the grass in good condition, (and unless it is so maintained, it inevitably attracts rubbish), is by the introduction of more modern grass cutting machinery to expedite the work. This it is hoped will begin to receive attention in 1966.

The refuse tip is practically complete, and the next few years should see an extension of playing fields to cover the tip area.

G.L. Robinson, M.I.Mun.E.,
Borough Engineer & Surveyor,
Covercroft,
Droitwich.

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J. J. ...
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